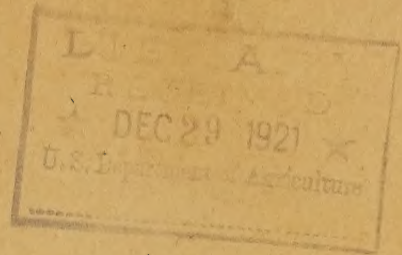


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AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS

BY

F. LAMSON - SCRIBNER

EXPERT ON EXHIBITS
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

NOVEMBER 30, 1921.

Read at the Chicago
Meeting of the International
American Association of
Fairs and Expositions.
November 30, 1921

AGRICULTURAL MUSEUMS

By

F. Lamson-Scribner, B.Sc., LL. D.
Expert on Exhibits, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Read before the
International-American Association of Fairs and Expositions,
November 30, 1921.

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the International-American Association of Fairs and Expositions:-

I am sincerely glad to be with you again. This is the fifth season that I have had the honor of addressing your association, and I wish to assure you of my appreciation of your courtesy in giving me the opportunity to speak at this time on the subject of Agricultural Museums. Public interest in this subject is growing rapidly and I trust that what I shall present will carry a measure of this interest to you. I can do little more than briefly outline what others have done and offer a few timely suggestions that possibly may help to inspire activities that will lead to the establishment of an American museum of agriculture taking rank with those which stand first in science or art.

At your last annual meeting I directed attention to the museum of the Agriculture Department in the early days of its organization, and to the one which had been established in the Republic of Argentina. Today I will speak of the Argentine Rural Society and its great Agricultural Museum, the Hungarian Agricultural Museum at Budapest, the Danish Agricultural Museum at Lyngby, near Copenhagen, concluding with a few general considerations regarding the collections for an agricultural museum and how you may help to bring about its establishment.

Argentine Rural Society.

This society, which in some respects resembles our own International Live Stock Association, was founded in 1858 by a group of public spirited cattle men and land owners and its organization formed the starting point of the enormous agricultural development which has taken place in the Republic of Argentina during the last 25 years.

The Rural Society holds annual expositions which for variety and quality of cattle and horses displayed, rival similar shows in Europe or North America.

Entrance to the grounds, which cover about 45 acres, is on Avenida Sarmiento, and just within the gates is a small office building. To the right is the beautiful pavilion of the State Buenos Aires and to the left is an attractive restaurant which is equipped for giving State banquets. Directly in front facing the entrance, is the arena for exhibiting live stock, with its reviewing stands. The horse stables are beautiful build-

W. Lawrence Garrison, 1850, No. 1.
New York, N.Y. 10001

International Association of Police and Firemen
November 10, 1901

Dear Sir:

The President of the International Association of Police and Firemen

I am extremely glad to be able to inform you that I have been elected President of the International Association of Police and Firemen. I have been elected to this position for the term of one year, and I am very proud to accept the honor. I am sure that I shall be able to do all that is required of me, and I shall be glad to have the support of all the members of the Association. I am sure that we shall be able to do all that is required of us, and I shall be glad to have the support of all the members of the Association.

As you are well known to the members of the Association, I shall not repeat the details of my life. I shall only say that I have been a member of the Association for many years, and I have been very active in its work. I have been elected to the position of President for the first time, and I am very proud to accept the honor. I am sure that I shall be able to do all that is required of me, and I shall be glad to have the support of all the members of the Association.

Respectfully,
W. Lawrence Garrison

This meeting, which in some respects was very interesting, was held in the city of New York. It was held in the city of New York, and it was very interesting. It was held in the city of New York, and it was very interesting. It was held in the city of New York, and it was very interesting.

The International Association of Police and Firemen, which was organized in 1850, is now one of the largest and most powerful organizations in the world. It has a membership of over 100,000 men, and it is very active in its work. It is very active in its work, and it is very active in its work.

It is very active in its work, and it is very active in its work. It is very active in its work, and it is very active in its work. It is very active in its work, and it is very active in its work. It is very active in its work, and it is very active in its work.

ings with elegantly finished interiors. Almost fabulous prices have been paid here for thoroughbred animals. A locally bred shorthorned bull ("Americus"), exhibited by the Society in 1913, was sold for \$35,000. and for each of three Derby winners, \$150,000. was paid.

Agricultural Museums of the Argentine Rural Society.

In the southwestern part of the grounds of the Rural Society facing Plaza Italia, is the Agricultural Museum. The building is of a pleasing design, and was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$100,000. It is 300 feet long by 90 feet wide, abundantly lighted and attractively finished. It is really an immense hall with stairways at either end leading to the broad balcony which entirely surrounds its interior.

The museum is under the administrative direction of the Argentine Rural Society and its staff consists of the honorary director, Agr. Eng. Carlos D. Girola, a curator, assistant curator, and two caretakers.

The vast collections assembled to illustrate the agricultural resources of the Argentine Republic at the Centennial Exposition, held at Buenos Aires in 1910, were deemed so valuable that this permanent museum was established in order to preserve them. It now contains more than 30,000 numbers from every state and territory of the Republic, covering nearly the entire field of the country's agricultural products and resources.

The museum is open to the public, free of charge, two days a week. Those who are conducting agricultural investigations are admitted at any time and the courtesies of the museum are always extended to out-of-town visitors. The attendance during recent years has exceeded 100,000 annually, not including the 30,000 or more scholars from the schools in the city.

Senor Girola classifies his collections as follows:-

Division of Natural Products		
"	"	Products of Animal Origin
"	"	Agricultural Products
"	"	Products of Agricultural Industry
"	"	Industrial Zootechnics
"	"	Machinery and Farming Implements
"	"	Rural Construction

Provision is also made for agricultural and zootechnical conferences; the preparation and publication of proceedings of these conferences; for special papers on agricultural topics; and for exchanges with other institutions of similar character.

The success attained by Senor Girola in organizing and building up of this permanent museum has been and is of the greatest value and importance to this country, and up to the present time, Argentina stands alone among the nations of the Western Hemisphere in the possession of a great and distinctly agricultural museum.

Royal Hungarian Agricultural Museum.

On an island, near the heart of the city of Budapest, is located the Royal Hungarian Museum of Agriculture. Outwardly it has the appearance of a castle of the middle ages; within, its stairways and halls are richly finished in polished marble, and the floors divided into many well proportioned and finely lighted rooms and halls. The building was completed in 1904 at a cost of \$480,000 and stands today with its magnificent collections made for the thousandth anniversary of the nation in 1904 as a monument to agriculture and a splendid expression of the important position which agriculture holds in the minds of the Magyar people.

Three types of architecture are represented in the different sections or wings of the building - Renaissance, Gothic and old Roman. In the Renaissance wing are the principal collections. The Gothic section contains the forest, fish and game, and the third, or smallest section, of Romanesque type, contains a lecture hall, library, and the administrative offices.

The collective exhibits on the first floor of the Renaissance wing include:- Agricultural statistics; soils and the minerals from which they are derived; field crops; grains; root crops; etc.; orchard products, and ornamental gardening; facsimiles of various orchard fruits and of vegetables; preserved fruits and vegetables; vegetable seeds and models of horticultural tools and appliances; diseases of plants; injurious and useful animals; viticulture and wine making; experimental institutions of the country devoted to various branches of agriculture; dairy farming; agricultural industries; agricultural labor; agricultural history; meteorology; agricultural machinery and farm implements, of ancient and modern manufacture; and agricultural architecture.

The landing at the head of the stairway to the second floor is very beautiful. Here as everywhere throughout the museum, no effort has been spared on the part of the administration to render agriculture attractive in the highest sense. On this landing near the stairway is a reception hall and close by is the section to which is assigned the splendid collections illustrating breeds of horses, including exactly reproduced models of famous thoroughbreds of Hungary. On the walls are beautiful oil paintings and many large photographs, and in a prominent position a finely executed bust of Frances Kozma, the renowned Hungarian horsebreeder. To add interest to this room is a quarter size facsimile of a Hungarian four-in-hand, the horses of which were modelled from English half-breeds from the stud-farm of a distinguished Hungarian.

In the next section are models, pictures, etc., illustrating every branch of cattle breeding carried on in the country. Other sections on this floor have collections illustrating primitive occupations, agricultural training, handling farm waters (drainage, irrigation, etc.), bee culture and silk culture.

From the Renaissance building a corridor leads to the Gothic wing, which, as already stated, is occupied with collections of forestry, fish and game. The ground floor is devoted to the first subject, excepting for a small section given up to fisheries, and embraces collections illustrating nearly every phase of scientific and commercial forestry, giving

due attention also to insects and other pests injurious to forest trees. The wild animals of the country, many of the specimens being trophies of the chase donated by distinguished individuals, are located on the second floor. Appropriate pictures and transparencies are pleasingly arranged on the walls and in the windows.

The next section, designated the "Armory", contains interesting animals, in groups or standing singly, together with collections of guns illustrating the development of sporting weapons from primitive flint locks to the most up-to-date rifles. Here also are models of hunting dogs, traps of various kinds, etc. The exhibits are most attractively arranged and altogether make a very interesting and entertaining section of the museum.

In this connection I want to refer to the great agricultural fair held the past season at Prague by the new republic of Czechoslovakia. This republic adjoining Hungary, is about the size of the combined New England States and is teeming with industrial activities. The views I have of this fair are strikingly like those to be seen at the better State Fairs of our own country. This year over 2000 exhibitors made displays occupying an area of about seven acres. The attendance exceeded 120,000. An attractive folder, in English, describes the resources of the Republic as shown at this fair.

The Danish Agricultural Museum.

There is one other museum to which I wish to refer, the Danish Agricultural Museum, established in 1888, at Lyngby, a pleasure resore, near Copenhagen. Its collections are designed to illustrate as fully as possible Danish agriculture and its development in ancient and modern times and to serve for public exhibition and for study. Besides the main building which contains the principal collections, there are over twenty cottages which have been brought from various parts of the country, together with their original interior fittings and equipment, and reconstructed here. They well represent the rural architecture and many features of country life in the different provinces of Denmark.

The Danish Museum is under the management of a board of directors who are chosen partly by the minister of agriculture and partly by different agricultural societies. It is a national institution deriving its financial support from the Government.

Its collections are classed in three divisions:

1. Agriculture in its general relations
2. Agricultural Machinery and farming equipment
3. Agricultural products.

General Considerations,

The Three museums named - one in South America and two in Europe - while differing from each other in many details, were each established for the same purpose - to preserve records of the agricultural development of their respective countries, and to afford an opportunity for display of permanent collections of all agricultural products and objects of agricultural interests and educational value where farmers, fruit growers, and cattle breeders of their respective countries can obtain suggestions, guidance and inspiration.

Agriculturists abroad have expressed surprise that in the United States, where the industries of agriculture and cattle raising are so important and where so much attention is given to agricultural education through schools and experiment stations, no agricultural museum has been established neither in Washington nor elsewhere.

It is difficult to explain why this situation exists. There is nothing here to take the place of such museums - a possibility suggested by a foreign correspondent. No other museum covers the same field. The museum of agriculture is not a museum of natural history, although it must contain many natural objects from the mineral, vegetable, and animal kingdoms. They are not displayed, however, to show the characters of species or illustrate systems of classification, but to demonstrate their relation to agriculture or the part they play in agricultural industries. And so for the museums of anthropology and archaeology, of commerce and of industry. They each have material that will also appear in our agricultural museum, but in the latter case they would be assembled for a different purpose and teach other lessons, not of the works of man or his past culture, nor of matters of domestic and foreign trade, nor of industrial endeavors, but of agriculture.

Attempts have been made to establish agricultural museums in the United States, but all have been short-lived, either through inefficient organization, lack of due appreciation of their value, or of adherence on the part of the directors to a definite purpose. Some of our agricultural colleges have made collections of museum material to supplement or aid in their courses of instruction. The support of such collections has always been precarious and when the professor, whose enthusiasm in his work and appreciation of the value of visual instruction has assembled them passes to other fields of duty, they are stored away or become scattered and worthless through indifference or neglect on the part of his successors. There are in our country a number of beautiful collections of fruits and other agricultural products assembled to exploit certain lands or avowedly to encourage immigration in certain quarters, but such collections have little real educational value, often-times they are misleading and although they may be quite extensive and include many products they do not constitute a museum. They can have great exposition value, but no value whatever in the well designed museum of agriculture whose purpose should always be to furnish reliable and practical information on agricultural subjects and such facts as are necessary for their comprehensive understanding and treatment.

Exhibit Suggestions.

Of course there must be a wheat department in an agricultural museum. An entire gallery might be devoted to this grain. Museums have been established on subjects of less importance and with fewer elements of interest. Wheat has been connected with the activities of man in all ages, and today farmers are striving to improve its quality and productiveness, competing with each other in their efforts to secure a higher degree of excellence in the product or increase in yield.

The wheat crop of 1919 was 950,000,000 bushels. Is there a single sample of the variety making up the bulk of that year's crop preserved anywhere, supplied with sufficient date to enable comparison with previous crops to those which may follow for making deductions that will advance

our knowledge of wheat culture? There may be, but I am quite sure that if one attempted to base any serious undertaking upon such samples he would find them widely scattered, and so lacking in data regarding essential facts, that they would serve no useful purpose. A mere collection of objects does not make a museum, and isolated facts are of little value in drawing conclusions.

For many years Experiment Stations and individuals have conducted variety tests with wheat. What results have been achieved by these tests and where have they been recorded? Printed pages contain records of many of these tests, but the samples themselves, evidences of the results which can be appraised by the public, are unavailable. From books we can only learn what others may know, but from the specimens we acquire knowledge that is all our own.

If a number of the leading wheat growers of the country would get together and formulate plans for conducting variety tests that will take all conditions of soil, climate and controllable factors into consideration, adopt a uniform system of records and continue these tests systematically, over a period of ten years or more, placing samples of each years' product where they can be studied and compared with those of previous years, an accumulation of facts would be acquired in the shape of a collective exhibit from which deductions could be made that would be of inestimable value to agriculture. A museum might very properly be built for preserving just such records.

Wheat is only one of a thousand subjects that would go to make up the collections of a museum of agriculture, and the project here noted but one of a hundred that would appear in our collective exhibit of wheat alone.

In this wheat section there should be samples, models, charts, maps, photographs, or other exhibit devices that would serve in illustrating, demonstrating, or recording every fact concerning wheat of any value or interest whatever to agriculture. I need not take the time to enumerate them here. You, who have been managers of agricultural fairs for years, know them well. The incentive for the museum display, however, is chiefly educational - the acquisition of diffusion of knowledge, and therefore would contain many things not shown at fairs where the chief incentive is the winning of prizes by competition. There should be material that would illustrate wheat through all the changes it has undergone since prehistoric times to the present day; the different varieties, and their distribution; soils upon which they thrive; nature value and use of products; and diseases, parasites, and insects which attack the plant and grain; the materials and methods employed to combat these pests; all the products of wheat of whatever nature; methods of land preparation, seeding, cultivating, harvesting, shipping, milling, etc., with statistics regarding area in wheat in our own and other countries, amount and value of crops; of the mill products, etc. These and many other items would find their place in this department.

Other staple crops of the field, for example, corn, cotton, and tobacco, should be treated in like manner.

Modelssand oil paintings of types of the different breeds of horses and cattle are essential to our museum and may be treated in ways that will add beauty and attractiveness to our collections. Nowhere has this been accomplished so well as in the wonderful museum at Budapest. Actual statues by famous sculptors of celebrated throughbreds and masterly paintings vividly portraying animals in action by celebrated artists give character and beauty to the museum. In this department there would be everything relative to animal industry; animal products and their conservation, etc.

"Grown by the farmer boys of Illinois"
"Eight thousand boys in this contest."

During all the periods of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition these two legends surmounted two large pyramids of pure-bred corn, made up of 1,000 little pyramids each containing 10 symmetrical, straight-rowed uniform ears of white or yellow corn. Such an exhibit is worthy of note not only because it illustrates the energy and industry of 8,000 farmer boys, but also because it represents a factor that has exercised a powerful influence in the development of agriculture in our country during recent years - the boys and girls clubs. What these young people have done to increase agricultural production and improve its quality is beyond praise, and this element in our agricultural system may well figure in our museum devoted to the farmer.

Get the Boys and Girls Clubs started in this - Let them know that records of their work telling of good deeds accomplished in the interest of agriculture will be accorded due consideration in plans for a permanent museum. No stronger incentive for winning their support can be presented.

Selection from exhibits at your annual fairs would yield good material for a nucleus to a permanent educational collection - relabeled and rearranged to meet the purposes in view. Definite plans for doing this very thing are now being made by at least one member of your association.

The Collections should be so prepared and installed as to inspire enthusiasm in agricultural subjects and supply data from which the origin and subsequent development of all products and things of interest to agriculture could be most comprehensively treated.

Collective exhibits showing the effect European agriculture has had upon the development of agriculture in this country would be instructive as would a like showing of how American productions and methods have influenced Agriculture in Europe.

It is clear that no museum can limit its activities to present conditions, but must keep pace with the advancements of the times by continually supplementing and adding to its collections.

What the Fair Association May Do.

What can this Association do to develop a permanent agricultural

The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is a complex of many different parts, and that these parts are all derived from a common ancestor. The author also discusses the possibility of life being introduced to Earth from elsewhere, and shows that this is also a possibility.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE

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museum? That you fully appreciate the value and importance of such a museum and the real need for it there is no doubt in my mind whatsoever. The keen attention you are already giving to the development of the educational features at your fairs, to which I referred in my address last year, is evidence of this fact. As a body you can do much by arousing a public sentiment favorable to the museum project. If there was an agriculture museum here in Chicago filled with carefully selected exhibits along all agricultural lines, intelligently arranged in attractive settings according with the latest development in the art of museum making, your annual visits here would acquire a new and greater interest. You would have this museum in mind in your coming as you now have the International Live Stock Exposition and the Hay and Grain Show. You would visit it and you could not fail to derive pleasure and benefit from those visits. Its contents would inspire new thoughts and new ideals that would be transferred to your own endeavors and be reflected in actual benefits to the people you represent.

You could be active and useful agents for the museum, ever on the watch for material to round out important displays. It is possible to entertain the plan of setting aside an entire gallery in this museum where "blue ribbon" material from the State Fairs might be preserved and displayed for longer or shorter periods according to its nature. Such material would be interesting as the best products of the States, and if their character permitted, they might be held for comparison with crops of succeeding years or with those of the same kind from other States. Information of the greatest value and significance might be acquired by these means.

As individuals you can begin talking about agricultural museums at once. And when you go home converse with your friends and neighbors on the subject, or with those in authority. By so doing you may set ideas in motion that will result in the development of plans for the organization of a museum in your own community. When once started growth will be rapid if the plans have been intelligently made and the agricultural purposes of the museum strictly adhered to. Many willing helpers will come to your aid and there will be no lack of material from which to make selections, but many problems will arise as in all new undertakings. In solving these follow the precept "prove all things and hold fast to that which is good."

A paper on "Agricultural Museums," that I had the honor to read last May before the "American Association of Museums" at Cleveland, Ohio, has received very kindly notice. It has been most gratifying to me to discover the widespread interest in this subject. Encouraging words have come to me from men whose opinions are everywhere respected, and whose judgements in all agricultural matters are of the greatest value. In conversation, many have expressed to me the need of such a museum and the hope that one would soon be established in Washington or elsewhere to preserve the many things concerned with the development of our agricultural industries now in danger of being lost.

The time has arrived when the subject of agricultural museums should be given the fullest consideration. A sentiment favorable to museums of all kinds is rapidly developing in the minds of the public which is becoming more and more appreciative of all methods of visual instructions and enter-

tainment. It has been asserted that the up-to-date museum is the highest type of an educational institution - it supplies the text accompanied by the object, and should rank with the gréatest and most exalted of human endeavors for popular instruction.

In the museum of agriculture lies a new field of activity that shall help to make farming more attractive as a profession and stimulate the development of this industry beyond all present conceptions. To me its advent will mark the fulfilment of long cherished hopes and the unfolding of visions of the varied and numberless products of our country's six million farms* assembled in a great institution of visual instruction where all the world may learn the vital and wonderfully interesting lessons they teach.

*The number of farms in the United States according to the last census report is 6,427,366.

